

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

John 6:26-29

Lesson #58

Signs and Wonders

10/07/2018

John 6:26-29

"²⁶ Jesus answered them and said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, **not because you saw signs**, but because you ate of the loaves, and were filled. ²⁷ **Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life**, which the Son of Man shall give to you, for on Him the Father, even God, has set His seal.' ²⁸ They said therefore to Him, 'What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?' ²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, 'This is the work of God, that you **believe in Him whom He has sent.**'"

- The miracle of feeding 5000 was a **material gift of love**.
- It was also a sign of something much more important - **bread of life**.

THIS WAS MISSED.

1

How to keep the fire burning
in the fireplace.

1. Respect the role of miracles in the Gospels, Acts.

- a. They were a call to listen and learn.
- b. They were a sign of spiritual authority and hope.

2. Beware of the challenge that miracles presented to the early church and the modern church.

2

Miracles (healing & deliverance) are at the heart of the Christian story.



3

Jesus and Healing



Healing was a big part of Jesus' teaching ministry.

4

Miracle	Method	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Healing an official's son	Word, father's faith				4:46-54
Delivering a demoniac	Exorcism, word		1:21-28	4:33-37	
Multitudes	Teaching, preaching, healing	4:23		6:17	
A leper	Word, touch, leper's faith	8:2	1:40	5:12	
Healing Peter's mother-in-law	Touch, word, prayer of friends	8:14-15	1:29-31	4:38-39	
Multitudes	Touch, word, faith of friends	8:16	1:32	4:40	
Many demons	Preaching, exorcism		1:39		
Multitudes				5:15	
Healing a paralytic	Word, faith of friends	9:1-8	2:1-12	5:17-26	
Healing a man at Bethsaida	Word, man's faith				5:1-15
Healing a withered hand	Word, obedient faith	12:9-13	3:1-5	6:6-11	
Multitudes	Exorcism, response to faith	12:15	3:10		
Healing a centurion's servant	Master's prayer, faith	8:5-13		7:1-10	
Raising a widow's son	Word, compassion			7:11-17	
Casting out spirit	Exorcism	12:22-32		11:14-23	
Delivering a demoniac	Word, exorcism	8:28-34	5:1-20	8:26-39	
Healing a woman	Touching garment in faith	9:20-22	5:25-34	8:43-48	
Raising Jairus' daughter	Word, touch, faith of father	9:18-26	5:22-43	8:41-56	
Healing two blind men	Word, touch, men's faith	9:27-31			

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Casting out a dumb spirit	Exorcism	9:32-34			
Multitudes	Teaching, preaching, healing	9:35			
Multitudes	Proof to John Bapt. in prison	11:4		7:21	
Multitudes	Compassion	14:14		9:11	6:2
Multitudes	Touch of garment, & faith	14:34	6:55		
Exorcising a Syrophenician	Mother's prayer, faith	15:21-28	7:24-30		
Great Multitudes	Faith of friends	15:30			
Healing a deaf and dumb	Word, touch, friend's prayer		7:31-37		
Mary Magdalene and others	Exorcism		8:2		
Healing a blind man	Word, touch, friend's prayer		8:22-26		
Casting out a demon from a boy	Word, touch, father's faith	17:14-21	9:14-29	9:37-42	
Healing a man born blind	Word, touch				9:1-7
Healing a woman	Word, touch			13:10-17	
Various persons	Exorcism			13:32	
Healing a man with dropsy	Touch			14:1-6	
Raising Lazarus	Word			11:1-44	
Cleansing 10 lepers	Word, faith of the men			17:11-19	
Great multitudes		19:2			
Healing blind Bartimaeus	Word, touch, faith	20:29-34	10:46-52	18:35-43	
Healing the high priest's ear	Touch			22:49-51	6

Jesus anointed the **12 disciples** for a deliverance ministry.

Luke 9:1-2

"Then He called His **twelve disciples** together and gave them power and **authority over all demons, and to cure diseases**. He sent them to **preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick**."

Deliverance ministry is associated with both **healing and exorcism**.

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Healing was a part of the Apostles' ministry.

Miracles in Acts

TEXT	TYPE OF	PERFORMED BY
2:43	Sign	The twelve
3:67	Healing	Peter & John
5:12	Sign	The twelve
5:15-16	Healing	Peter
5:19	Release from prison	Angel
6:8	Sign	Stephen
8:6	Sign	Philip
9:40-41	Resurrection	Peter
12:7	Release from prison	Angel
13:11	Blinded	Jesus
14:3	Sign	Paul & Barnabas
14:9-10	Healing	Paul
16:18	Exorcism	Paul
19:11-12	Healing & exorcism	Paul
20:9-10	Resurrection	Paul
23:11	Appearance of Christ	God
27:23	Appearance of angel	God
28:5	Immune to poison	God
28:8	Healing	Paul
28:9	Healing	Paul

8

Miracles were a **"sign"** of the coming promised kingdom and the **authority of those who were its ambassadors**.



The greatest miracle was a sign

Our faith is based on this **"miracle sign"**.

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Hebrews 2:3-4

"3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, 4 God also **bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles** and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will."

2 Corinthians 12:12

"The **signs of a true apostle** were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles."

John 10:25

"the works that I do in My Father's name, **these testify of Me**."

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John 20:30-31

"Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written **that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name**."

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Miracles (deliverance / healing) is a gift of God's love to the church.

- ✓ They should have an **edifying role** in the ministry of the church.

1 Cor.12:7 "the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

- ✓ They have too often been **neglected, abused, over emphasized and exploited.**
 - not only by the modern church but by the early church as well -
- ✓ The Apostles' teaching is directed more to the **abuse** than the use of "miracle ministry".
(*1 Cor.12-14*)

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Challenge #1 **Do I have power to heal?**

1 Corinthians 12

"²⁸ And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then **gifts of healings**, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? ³⁰ **All do not have gifts of healings, do they?** All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? ³¹ But earnestly desire the greater gifts."

Healing is a gift of God to the church but not given to every believer.

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Challenge #2 **Can I expect to be healed?**

Note Paul's implied inability to heal

Epaphroditus (Phil. 2:27),
Timothy (1 Tim. 5:23),
Trophimus (2 Tim. 4:20),
himself (2 Cor. 12:79)

Challenge #3 **Do miracles require a boost?**

Biblical healing took place without having to "work up" an atmosphere for it.



Challenge #4 **Vetting experiences**

"Experience always trumps DOCTRINE!"

But does an experience come with a built in explanation?

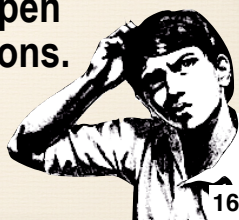


Challenge #4 **Vetting experiences**

"Experience always trumps DOCTRINE!"

All experiences are subjective and are open to differing explanations.

The question is - what has happened and what does it mean?



Matthew 9:34

"³² And as they were going out, behold, a dumb man, demon-possessed, was brought to Him. ³³ And after the demon was cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the multitudes marveled, saying, "**Nothing like this was ever seen in Israel.**" ³⁴ But the Pharisees were saying, "**He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.**"

- An **indisputable experience**
- A **disputable explanation**

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Galatians 1

“⁶ I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; ⁷ which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸ **But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.**”

- You can have “**powerful spiritual experiences**”.
- But if they are **contrary to Paul’s doctrine** they are to be rejected.

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Colossians 2

“¹⁶ Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day — ¹⁷ **things which are a mere shadow of what is to come**; but the **substance** belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Let no one keep **defrauding** you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, **taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,**”

- Signs (**shadows**) point to a (**substance**).
- The hope set on the flesh (material shadow) can **defraud** us of our true hope.

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Deliverance Ministry

Satan is not threatened by “deliverance ministries”

1. **that encourage living by sight not by faith.**
2. **that seek the kingdom before its time and without its King.**

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Implications

- ✓ **Be open** to healing and deliverance ministry as a part of the Body of Christ.
- ✓ **Be careful** because this subject has often been neglected, misunderstood, distorted, and abused.
- ✓ **Be wise** in discerning both the object of our faith and its subject (what we expect).
- ✓ **Be engaged** giving special attention to how the Apostles instructed the early church as to how miracles should be viewed.
- ✓ **Be skeptical** of spiritual experiences - “test the spirits” against sound teaching.

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